A NEW SPECIES OF HUERNIA FROM BAUCHI, NIGERIA

By J. J. Lavranos

(With Plate XXXI)

Huernia nigeriana Lavranos, nov. sp.

H. Volkartii valde affinis, sed caulibus valde crassioribus, brevioribus, lobis corollae ascendentibus, haud decurvis, lobis coronae exterioris subquadratis, lobis coronae interioris parte media flavis, apicem versus subulatis, decurvis et acuminatis discedit.

Caules erecti vel adscendentes, glabri, virides, ca. 7 cm. longi, 13–18 mm. crassi, 5-anguli, obtuse dentati; folia 2 mm. longa, acuta; flores solitarii; bracteae lineares, acutae, 5 mm. longae; pedicelli circa 10 mm. longi, 1·5 mm. crassi, teretes, glabri; sepala linearea, acuminata, 6 mm. longa, glabra, trinervia; corolla campanulata, 18 mm. longa, 22 mm. lata inter apices loborum, intus pallide lutea ubique maculis minutis, rubro-brunneis punctata, extus pallide punicea, rugosula, prominente nervata; lobi deltoidei, adscendentes, apicem paulo decurvi, 10 mm. longi, basi circa 7 mm. lati, intus papillis rubro-brunneis vel rarius albescentibus dense induti, extus prominente 5-nervii; lobi intermedii deltoidei, acuti, 1·5 mm. longi canaliculati, patentes; tubus 7 mm. longus, 9 mm. latus; tubi pars superior dense papillis 1 mm. longis induta, pars inferior glabra; corona exterior fusco-purpurea, 5 mm. diametro, basi tubi adpressa, lobis subquadratis, ad apices indentatis; coronae interioris lobi 4 mm. longi, erecti, basi fusco-purpurei, parte media flavi, conniventes, parte apicale fusco-purpurei, subulati valde decurvi et exserti 2·5 mm. supra antheras.

TYPE LOCALITY, 30 miles WSW of Bauchi, Nigeria, Dept. of Agriculture of Nigeria, col. Nov. 1960, Lavranos 1058, fl. Bryanston, Johannesburg, 19 April 1961 (PRE, Holotype).

Stems ascending-erect, rigid, appr. 7 cm. long, 13–18 mm. thick, glabrous, green, 5-angled, bluntly toothed.

Leaves 2 mm. long, acuminate, at right angles to the stem, persistent for two years.

Flowers solitary from the base of young stems.

Bracts linear, acute, 5 mm. long.

Pedicel terete, glabrous, cream-coloured, about 10 mm. long, 1·5 mm. thick.

Sepals linear-acuminate, 6 mm. long, glabrous, 3-nerved.

Corolla campanulate, 18 mm. long, 22 mm. broad between apices of lobes; *lobes* ascending, slightly decurved, deltoid tapering to an acute point, about 7 mm. broad at base, 10 mm. long; *intermediate lobes* deltoid, acute, canaliculate, spreading horizontally, 1·5 mm. long; *tube* 7 mm. long, 9 mm. in diameter; *outer surface* pinkish, fairly densely covered with minute wart-like dots, the lobes prominently 5-nerved, the nerves extending to the base of the tube; *inner surface* cream, densely marked with crimson dots, covered with cream and crimson papillae 1 mm. long at mouth of tube but shorter on lobes; base and lower part of tube glabrous.

Outer corona dark purple, adpressed against base of corolla-tube, about 5 mm. in diameter, the lobes subquadrate, as broad as they are long, with entire margins and one shallow indentation at their apices.

Inner corona lobes 4 mm. long, connivent-erect, dark purple and flattened at base, bright yellow with a prominent transverse ridge in the middle portion, thereafter dark-purple, subulate, the apices divergent-spreading, not enlarged and produced 2·5 mm. above the anthers.

In most characters *H. nigeriana* appears to be closely related to *H. Volkartii* Gossweiler from Southern Angola and Northern S.W. Africa. It differs, however, sufficiently from the latter species in having much thicker, erect stems up to 18 mm. in diameter, whereas the stems of *H. Volkartii* rarely reach a thickness of 10 mm.; in producing its flowers singly whereas in *H. Volkartii* flowers are usually born 2–5 from subsessile cymes and developed successively; the corolla-lobes are ascending and only slightly recurved, whereas in *H. Volkartii* they are strongly revolute; the outer corona-lobes are subquadrate, almost truncate and not narrowly lanceolate; the inner corona-lobes are bright yellow in the middle with a prominent transverse ridge, dark purple, subulate and strongly decurved in their apical part, and terminate in a rather sharp point. In all the numerous specimens of *H. Volkartii* which I have seen, whether from Angola or S.W. Africa, the inner corona-lobes were not at all divergent, dark purple throughout and distinctly enlarged at their apices.

H. nigeriana belongs to the *Hystrix* section of White and Sloane's *macrocarpa-brevirostris* group.

This, the most westerly known member of the genus was collected about 30 miles WSW of Bauchi in Nigeria in acacia scrub forest by an officer of the Nigerian Department of Agriculture. The climate of its habitat is characterised by a rather high summer rainfall of some 40 inches and an intensely dry winter season dominated by dessicating harmattan winds from the Sahara.

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I also wish to thank the Nigerian Dept. of Agriculture for living plants of the species herein described as well as for plants of three species of Caralluma one of which, at least, would appear to be new to science. My thanks, finally, go to Mr. G. Papadakis, formerly of Lagos, Nigeria, to whose kind efforts, indirectly, I owe these plants.

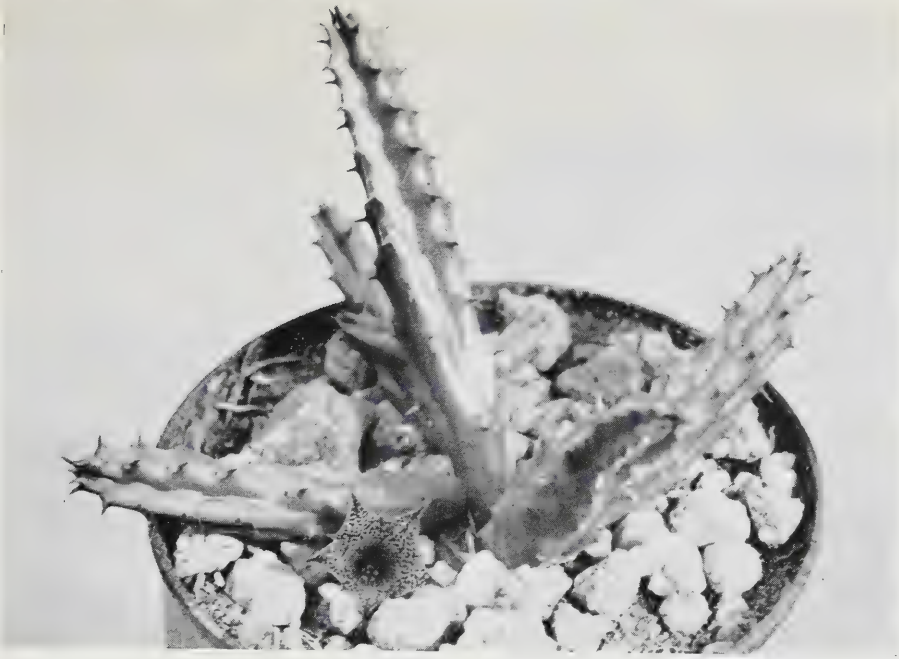

Fig. 1.

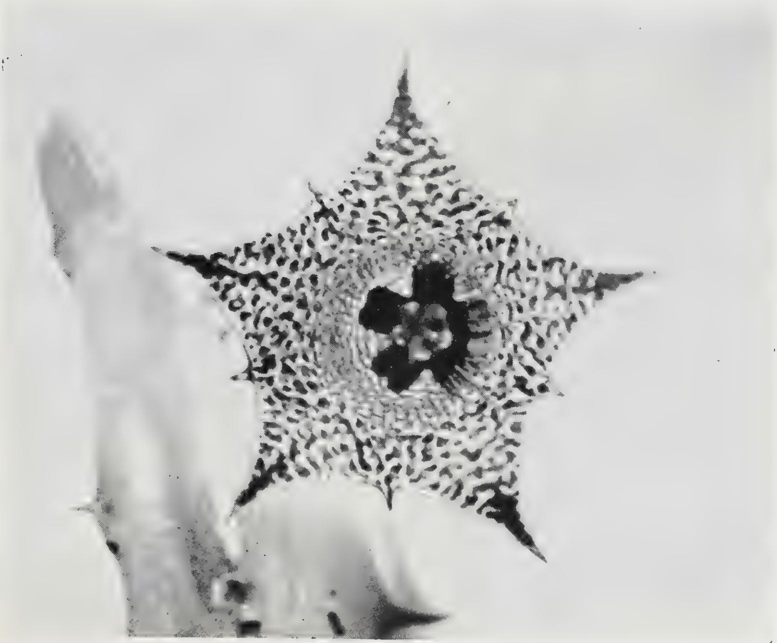

Fig. 2.

Plate XXXI. *Huernia nigeriana* Lavranos.

Fig. 1.—The type plant, actual size.
Fig. 2.—Flower × 3½.

(*Photos: Division of Botany, Pretoria.*)